

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Suzanne Watkins finds looking into eyes a rewarding profession

Carrier has been goal for many years

By Julie Pfeiffer
 Of The Carlisle Mercury Staff
 Suzanne Watkins has had very definite ideas about a career for many years and through her dedication and positive frame of mind, has achieved her goals.

She credits her involvement in 4-H, which led to an interview with an optometrist, which led to a career goal.

Obviously her education in the Nicholas County school system has not held her back. She is a teaching assistant this semester for a neuro-anatomy class. "She said she just hopes she can answer all their questions," her mother, Betty Clutrie, said.

Watkins recalled that while her husband, Kevin, was still in Kentucky and she was at school, she carried a 3.0 out of a 4.0 scale. When he arrived, her grades soared up to a 2.8. This also lends credence to the theory that support helps, too.

"Never believe someone when they say you cannot succeed," she wrote in notes for the interview "because only you can control the amount of your success."

Watkins attended Morehead University because it is one of three schools in Kentucky that offer pre-optometry. The next decision was choosing to complete a four year program and receive a degree, then go on to optometry school, or try for optometry school after 90 hours or three years.

Watkins tried after three years and succeeded in getting into Indiana University at Bloomington.

IU has been quite an experience. She said when she had her entrance interview, someone joked about the fact that she was from Kentucky. Often other students ask her if she feels like her education in Kentucky prepared her for college.

"When no more than 20% of my graduating class went to attend college, 80% of those of their other students in her class at IU classmates

had, she explained, has two years of schooling after high school. An optician can adjust the frames, grind lenses and do preliminary testing for the optometrist.

An ophthalmologist is the medical doctor counterpart to the optometrist. They usually prefer to do surgery such as cataract removal.

Watkins considered being an ophthalmologist, because she would have been able to go to school in Kentucky and it would have held more challenge. She decided though, that she could not give the 24-hour-a-day dedication required to be an MD. I need time for family.

Family is very important to her, and she is very important to her family. During the interview, her father-in-law, Gerald Watkins, came downstate to say how proud he was of his daughter-in-law. "She's more of a daughter than a daughter-in-law," he said.

The most exciting recent development in optometry is a new Kentucky law that will

allow optometrists to administer therapeutic as well as diagnostic drugs.

This allows the optometric profession to broaden its scope, and relieves the

ophthalmologist of some workload, so they can concentrate harder on surgery.

In the fall, Watkins will attend a Kentucky Optometric Association convention. She explained that this was a honor to attend as a student, to attend the seminars as well as making contacts throughout Kentucky.

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Nicholas Lunch Menus

NICHOLAS MENUS
 Elementary

Breakfast: Monday, Juice, cereal, milk. Tuesday, Juice, waffles and syrup, milk. Wednesday, juice, dunkin' donuts, milk. Thursday, Apple- sauce, Scramps and biscuits, milk. Friday, No School.

Lunch: Monday, Hot dog on bun, french fries, pork and beans, cherry cabbage, milk. Tuesday, Chicken pattie on bun, buttered carrots, mashed potatoes, fruit, milk. Wednesday, Pimento cheese sandwich, chili, pickle, crackers, orange half, milk. Thursday, Beef Ravioli, buttered corn, tossed salad, bread, cookies, milk. Friday, No School.

High School

Monday, Fish, hush puppies, omelette, pork and beans, fruit, coffee/tea, milk. Tuesday, Sloppy joes, potato chips, lettuce wedge, fruit, ice cream, milk. Wednesday, Pizza, tossed salad, apple, milk. Thursday, Corn dogs, soup beans, lettuce wedge w/dressing, fruit, milk. Friday, No School.

Leadership conference held in Fayette



The students pictured above took part in a Teen Leadership Conference at the Woodmen of the World Camp near Lexington the weekend of September 17-18, 88 (Photo by Pfeiffer)

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